

TO: Test Coordinators

FROM: Cynthia Hollis, Director
National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP)

DATE: November 29, 2004

RE: New NAEP Inclusion Brochures

This message is intended to notify you that two new brochures are now available, **Inclusion of Students with Disabilities in NAEP (National Assessment of Educational Progress)** and **Inclusion of Limited-English-Proficient Students in NAEP**, and are posted on the Department's NAEP Web page <http://www.dese.state.mo.us/divimprove/naep/> in the "Bulletin Board" section. The intent of these documents is to help school personnel in making inclusion and accommodation decisions regarding NAEP participation.

Three hundred twenty-five (325) Missouri schools have been selected to participate in the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) 2005, better known as "the Nation's Report Card." NAEP is designed to report on the academic performance of large groups of students, and is based on state representative samples of fourth- and eighth-grade students; and national representative samples of fourth-, eighth-, and twelfth-grade students. NAEP provides results for major demographic groups, including students with disabilities and limited-English proficient students. States that meet NAEP reporting criteria are able to compare their results with both national results and results of other states.

NAEP strives to include as many students as possible with appropriate accommodations as necessary. Decisions about inclusion and accommodations should be made in consultation with knowledgeable school staff, such as IEP teams, 504 teams, school psychologists, and teachers. Decision makers should note that NAEP does not provide individual scores, and group results do not have an effect on state-based performance initiatives or accountability standards. NAEP protects the confidentiality of students, teachers, and schools that participate by not collecting student, teacher, or school names.

Additional information regarding NAEP inclusion of special-needs students and IEP-documentation information may be found on the Department Special Education Web page, <http://www.dese.state.mo.us/divspeced/> in the "Compliance" section, and on the Department NAEP Web page <http://www.dese.state.mo.us/divimprove/naep/> in the "Inclusion of Special Needs Students" section.

I hope you find this information helpful. Please feel free to contact the Special Education Compliance Section at (573) 751-0699 (regarding IEP compliance) or me at (800) 845-3545 (regarding NAEP information) if you have questions or if we can be of further assistance regarding the inclusion of students with special needs in NAEP 2005.